

ACTING COMMISSIONER JAMES R. BENDER

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 5

AROUND THE BLOCK

SEPTEMBER 2007

PREA is Good Corrections

By Paul DiPaolo



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MassCor

Newsletter printed by Massachusetts Correctional Industries During the summer months, the PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act) Steering Committee continues to roll out the Department's strategic plan to meet the PREA mandate. We have scheduled dates to provide specialized training for staff members involved in inmate discipline, investigations, gender issues, first response, victim services, and medical and mental health interventions.

We have developed separate communication plans for staff and inmates to keep each group informed. We have also launched a new website for staff to find current information which will be updated regularly by the PREA Manager.

More importantly, we have developed and published a clear policy to help staff better understand their role in plans to prevent sexual abuse of inmates. This policy emphasizes how important it is for staff members, contractors, and volunteers to report unusual inmate behavior and document claims of sexually abusive behavior between inmates and between staff and inmates.

During training sessions, many staff members have asked just how big a problem we have in Massachusetts. The truth is that we just aren't sure. National surveys indicate the there may be three <u>substantiated</u> cases for every 1,000 inmates in jails and prisons across the country. The number of cases reported but unsubstantiated is much higher.

In April 2007, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) conducted a blind study of inmates living at Old Colony Correctional Center. Inmates were randomly selected to complete a questionnaire regarding either substance abuse or "non consensual" sexual behavior in prison. BJS has not as yet published the survey results, but we expect the sexual abuse numbers to be higher than those reported by corrections administrators.

We also expect the number of Massachusetts DOC reports to increase for 2008 as staff and inmates report more incidents. We hope to develop more effective prevention strategies based upon what we learn from the data we collect.

In reality, one rape of an inmate in our care and custody is one too many. PREA has caused corrections to focus on this issue; to realize that our intervention is not just about doing the right thing, it's about good security and controlling the spread of sexually transmitted disease in our workplace.

We now better appreciate how these predatory behaviors undermine our facility operations and drain the limited resources which we rely upon everyday. We realize that they can put our staff and other inmates at risk.

When staff members are intimately involved with inmates, we all lose. Any sexual abuse of an inmate is a violation of the law in Massachusetts, our code of conduct, and every lesson we learn at the academy. The staff member, contractor, or volunteer is totally compromised the minute they cross that very clearly established line.

In Massachusetts, PREA is our next best opportunity to prevent sexual abuse and sexual assault of the inmates in our care. We have a clear policy, are focused, better trained, and are aware of the costs of doing nothing.

We accept the call to identify these behaviors, challenge them and respond to them appropriately and deliberately. We have much to learn but we can make a difference. This is "good corrections."

Correction Officers Honored

By Diane Wiffin

At the 10th annual Correction Officer of the Year Award Ceremony, several Correction Officers representing the Mass. Department of Correction were among the Massachusetts State and County Correction Officers who were honored at the State House on June 26, 2007. Lieutenant Governor Timothy P. Murray, Secretary of the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Kevin M. Burke, Acting Commissioner James R. Bender as well as County Sheriffs and other elected officials praised the Correction Officers for their bravery and dedication to public service.

Correction Officer Edward Porter received a Medal of Honor for stopping the stabbing of two Correction Officers by a disruptive and violent inmate, who had a homemade weapon, at MCI Cedar Junction in the segregation unit. During the 11x7 shift, at approximately 1:40am, this inmate said he wasn't feeling well and requested to see medical staff, who determined that he should be seen in the Health Services Unit. Due to the inmate's violent history, the Shift Commander dispatched Officer Porter along with several other officers to assist in escorting the inmate to HSU. The inmate was placed in wrist restraints behind his back and leg restraints were applied, the standard protocol for segregation inmates. The inmate then lay on his bed and complained that he could not get up. As officers opened the cell door, the inmate suddenly slipped his restraints under his feet to the front and charged the officers as they were entering the cell. Armed with an eight-inch pick-type weapon fashioned from a metal piece of fence tie, the inmate stabbed the officer that opened his cell door in the face, and got on top of another officer and stabbed him on the left side. Officer



CO Edward Porter is pictured with Acting Commissioner James R. Bender and Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Murray



MCI Concord officers are from left to right: CO Cornelius Jones, Sgt. Edward Alinkowitz, Sgt. Paul Curran, CO Stephen Larosee, Recreation Officer Scott Silva, Sgt. George Frascarelli

Porter grabbed the weapon and bent it back in a U-shape, rendering it inoperable and preventing the inmate from causing further harm. Officer Porter's quick thinking and fast response during this dangerous situation prevented staff from receiving additional injuries.

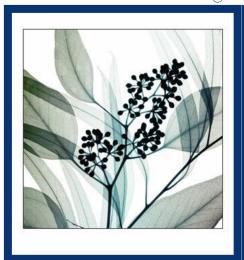
At MCI Concord, a fight in the dining hall between two inmates, one with a homemade weapon, was broken up and the inmates secured by Sergeants George Frascarelli, Edward Alinkowitz, Paul Curran, Correction Officers Stephen Larosee, Cornelius Jones and Recreation Officer Scott Silva. They received a Medal of The fight broke out in the back corner of the North Side Dining Hall during breakfast. The officer assigned to that section called for an emergency response and quickly moved to the area, noticing that one of the inmates had a homemade weapon and was stabbing the other inmate's upper torso. Without concern for their own safety, these officers separated the two combatants, secured them, and with assistance from other responding staff, removed them from the area. The inmate who was stabbed was taken to the HSU and then immediately transferred to an outside medical facility for emergency treatment. The actions of these brave officers saved this inmate from suffering more extensive injuries and possibly saved his life.

The Massachusetts Department of Correction is proud to acknowledge the heroics of these fine Correction Officers.

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James Grant

Retirements: May-August



Ronald Bernard	Daniel Guilbeault	Daniel O'Neil
Thomas Biggins	John Hrenko	Amelia Perry
Steven Brown	Mary Ellen Jones	Stephen Perry
Arthur Cardarelli Jr.	Philip Kane Jr.	Scott Petersen
William Connor Jr.	Loretta Keough	Linda Rose-Boughner
Stanley Cyr	Randall Kidd III	Lawrence Sandner
Kenneth Estrella	Frederick Krafton	Luke Simpson
Ninabeth Fay-Butler	Mark Laubenstein	David Stone
Donna Fielder	David Lonergan IV	James Sweeney
Paul Glynn	Fouad Matta	Joseph Zani
Murray Gonzalez	Helen McDonough	

Kenneth McKinnon

Trip Around the Globe

By Jaileen Hopkins and Kathleen Doyle

On June 21st, the institutional Media Liaisons had their annual training. This year it was held at the Boston Globe. We toured the Globe's facility with our tour guide Lori Canarie McGrath who was not only knowledgeable but entertaining as well.

The entire operation was very impressive. We got to see the amazing press rooms that the newspapers print from. The belts the papers are processed on travel at approximately 28 miles per hour. They use "robots" to load the enormous rolls of paper onto the belts. As you walk along the printing area there are little fun facts stamped along the observation windows. The Globe uses approximately 3,000 gallons of ink just to print their Sunday Edition. In a



year's time, the Globe generates enough paper to circle the equator, and they recycle both ink and paper. During the tour we saw valuable memorabilia showcased behind glass. Noted items included a 2004 Red Sox World Series Championship ring.

The Boston Globe was founded in 1872 and the first issue, which was published on March 4, 1872 cost four cents. The Globe went public under the name Affiliated Publications in 1973 and until then had been privately owned. In 1993, The New York Times Company merged with The Affiliated Press.

The Globe is primarily a night time operation. Most of the printing occurs after 11:00 p.m. There are varying times the papers are issued and 'stars' on the front page of the paper tells which edition you have received.

Towards the end of the day we had the opportunity to speak with two reporters: John Ellement and Stephen Kurkjian. Stephen, now retired, had worked as an editor and reporter for the Globe since 1968, and has won Pulitzer Prizes for his



work. He was assigned at one time to the newsroom's projects staff, preparing special investigative reports as a senior assistant metropolitan editor.

Our liaisons posed some tough questions to the reporters. The questions revolved around writing about the positive images of the Department of Correction. The answer: what appears nice doesn't always sell, however any positive stories may be accepted and placed in the regional editions of the newspaper.

The tour was very informative and it was a great opportunity to witness such a major operation. The Globe is now a wholly owned subsidiary of *The New York Times*. Not a bad club to be part of.

Career Day Presentation

By Lt. Christopher Murray

Each year in April the Butterfield School in Orange, MA hosts a career day for local businessmen and businesswomen to explain what they do for work. This is an opportunity for community members to educate the 5th and 6th graders about the many different careers available in their local area. I have had the privilege of presenting a program about the many opportunities within the Massachusetts Department of Correction. This program has been done for the past 6 years at this school and always has one of the largest groups registered. In years past Lt. Fred Lavenski and Co. James Robinson have also done presentations for the school. Most of the public has a picture of prisons that is based on movies and television. The children are always very receptive to hear what the Massachusetts prisons are really like.

We educate the children about the varied job opportunities in the department, such as Industrial Instructors, Teachers, Counselors, Program Officers, Recreation Officers and Medical, as well as Correction Officers, Clerical and Administrative staff. They are usually

amazed at the variety of jobs. I try to paint a picture of a Correctional Institution as a small city that provides all the services needed for its residents. The children benefit from watching a short video about Massachusetts Prisons and how staff are trained. This leads into a discussion of the many different careers available to them. Over the years we have shown some equipment we use daily such as restraints, portable radios and move team equipment. NCCI Gardner has a display board of confiscated items and gang paraphernalia that is always a hit with the audience.

The school has many parents and business owners presenting programs during career day. They do an exceptional job of educating the children on their career choices. The Butterfield School administration and staff go above and beyond everyday to give the children an excellent opportunity to learn and grow. I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in career day and hope the children have a better idea of the career opportunities in the Massachusetts Department of Correction. I encourage my fellow staff members to speak about their jobs with children and area residents as it provides a positive public image for all employees.

Computers for Schools: Fitchburg

By Diane Wiffin

The DOC continued its distribution of newly refurbished computers through its Computers for Schools Program by delivering 50 computers to Memorial Middle School in Fitchburg on June 8, 2007. An additional 50 more computers will be donated to the Fitchburg school system over the next few months. The DOC Computers for Schools Program trains inmates to refurbish computers that have been donated to the Department for distribution to public school systems throughout the Commonwealth.

"This is a great opportunity for the schools, the students and the Department of Correction," said DOC Acting Commissioner James R. Bender. "With 97% of offenders coming home on any given day, our job is to provide opportunities for offenders to change their behavior, and make communities safer. In addition, inmates who work on these computers are obtaining marketable skills that they can use when they return to the community. They are given the opportunity to do something positive for themselves and the community."

"In addition to providing a much needed resource to the community, the Computers for Schools Program supports the DOC's Reentry Initiative by giving inmates skills they can use when they are released and return home," said Associate DOC Commissioner Veronica Madden. Rep. Stephen DiNatale called the program close to his heart, since he had worked for the DOC, and said, "This program speaks well of the partnerships between the state and the community."

Also attending the presentation were Fitchburg School Superintendent Andre Ravenelle, Memorial Middle School Principal Fran Thomas, DOC Director of Inmate Training & Education Carolyn Vicari, DOC Computers for Schools Coordinator Brian Flynn as well as over 125 fifth grade students.

Superintendent Ravenelle echoed the theme of collaboration and was pleased to see his state representative and the DOC reaching out to the schools. He and Principal Fran Thomas were appreciative of the work of



the inmates to increase opportunities for students through expansion of computer labs. They noted that the computers were refurbished not far from the school at MCI Shirley and acknowledged MCI Shirley Superintendent Duane MacEachern, who also attended.

With this donation, the DOC Computers for Schools Program has given approximately 3,710 computers to classrooms throughout the Commonwealth since the program began in 1997. At an estimated cost of \$200-\$250 for a refurbished computer, this program has saved school districts between \$742,000 and \$927,500. The restorations involve the conversion of a computer that is a Pentium 3 or faster as well as the installation of a CD-ROM drive and sound cards. DOC provides the CPU, monitor, keyboard and mouse.

DNA

By Michelle Farrell

On September 30, 1997, then Governor Paul Cellucci signed into law "An Act Relative to the Enhancement of Forensic Technology," which requires the Commonwealth to collect deoxyribonucleic acid ("DNA") samples from inmates pursuant to M.G.L. c. 22E, and as otherwise required by court orders and Massachusetts law.

Since the inception of this law, DOC employees have stepped up to the challenge in coordinating, collecting and maintaining DNA sampling for all inmates within our custody, including county and out-of-state inmates. The following information was provided by the Massachusetts State Police: "To date, the total DNA sampling kits taken at the DOC is 21,703 and the total number of offenders from the DOC is 20,807. The DOC has assisted the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab resulting in 315 hits (matching DNA from a crime scene to an offender who was or is in our custody). The State Police currently does not keep any type of statistics on what happens per se post hit, as it is a complicated matter to track. Suffice it to say, whether an arrest is made or it aids investigations by the probative value it gives is just as important."

315 DNA hits came from:

MCI Concord: 136

NCCI: 22

MCI Cedar Junction: 20 MCI Shirley Medium: 20

OCCC: 17 SBCC: 18

MCI Norfolk: 17

MTC: 13 BSH: 9 SECC: 7 Pondville: 5

MCI Framingham: 5

BSCC: 4

MCI Plymouth: 4

BPRC: 3 SMCC: 3 NECC: 2

Mass Boot Camp: 2

Park Drive Pre-Release: 2 MCI Shirley Minimum: 2

Longwood: 1 MCI Lancaster: 1

MASAC: 1 Dartmouth:1 Types of crimes these offenders committed that were linked by DNA:

Reported Sexual Assault: 171

Breaking and Entering: 65 No Info Received on Type of

Crime: 29 Fatals: 21

Robbery: 11

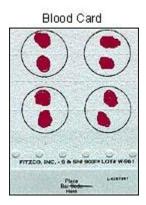
Fatal Shooting: 5

Non-Fatals: 4

Property Damage: 2

Hi-Jacking: 1 Car-Jacking: 1

Stolen Motor Vehicle: 1



A recent arrest of a subject who broke in and raped a 67 year old woman in Boston was the result of a CODIS (Combined DNA Index System) databank hit, for which the offender's DNA had been collected at MCI Plymouth. The Patriot Ledger reported an arrest of a recently released inmate who was charged with the rape of an 87 year old woman in Quincy back in May and was linked through the offender's DNA that was collected at SBCC.

This collaboration between two state agencies has resulted in crimes being solved, through the efforts of dedicated staff, that may have otherwise gone unsolved.

Independence on the Esplanade

By Gina Perez

DOC Community Work Crews were busy working on the Esplanade and surrounding areas along the Charles River in preparation for Boston's spectacular Fourth of July celebration. For several years now, the DOC has provided inmate work crews to the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) during this period in order to prepare for the hundreds-of-thousands of people who gather along the Charles over the holiday week.

DOC work crews are comprised of minimum-security inmates who provide labor to the state, local communities and non-profit organizations. These inmate crews play an important role in performing work that, absent these crews, would not have been performed. All Community Work Crew inmates are nearing a release or parole eligibility date. Work crews are strictly supervised by Correction Officers from the Department when outside the institution and working in the community. Last year, over one million hours of service were provided by the DOC to state and local communities, with millions of dollars saved

by taxpayers.

The inmate crews providing services during the week of July 4th were picking up trash, setting up chairs and barricades, mowing grass, and providing other beautification projects. After the concert, the crews moved in shortly after the crowds left and worked throughout the overnight hours to remove tons of trash and restore the Es-



planade to a pristine condition for those visiting the next day. The participating work crews are from Pondville Correctional Center, Boston Pre-Release Center, Northeastern Correctional Center and MCI Plymouth. The success of the program is a collaborative DOC effort spearheaded by CO Bob Balfour.

Renewable Energy in the Department

By Andrew Bakinowski

The March 2007 issue of Around the Block highlighted the efforts being undertaken by the DOC at the North Central Correctional Institute (NCCI) in Gardner, Massachusetts where a recording meteorological tower or "Met Tower" was installed earlier this year. Over the past six months, wind speed and wind direction have been recorded and downloaded for analysis. So far the data collected and average wind speeds are favorable to support a large wind turbine. The average wind speeds are just over 6.5 meters per second (that's about 13.5 miles per hour). A location with average wind speeds greater than 6.0 meters per second is considered a good location. The DOC is proceeding with a detailed feasibility study that will support the design and construction of the large wind turbine.

Recently, the DOC received \$1.5 million in zero-interest bonds from the Clean Renewable Energy Bond program. These no interest bonds are repaid by the electrical savings

created by the installation of renewable energy projects. An additional \$1.7 million in funding from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) and the Division of Energy Resources will fund the equipment and installation of 435 kiloWatts of photovoltaic (PV) (solar electric) panels at 5 DOC facilities. This combined system can provide enough electricity for up to 50 homes for an entire year.

The projected annual savings for these five photovoltaic systems is 506,000 kiloWatt hours with an associated cost of about \$101,000 per year at today's electric rates. The locations where these PV systems will be installed are at the Waste Water Treatment Plants in Concord, Norfolk and Bridgewater; South Middlesex Correctional in Framingham and the Industries Building at Cedar Junction. The Cedar Junction location is the license plate shop where recent upgrades to the plate manufacturing operation make it a green" process that reduces or eliminates most if not all emissions. The photovoltaic system will contribute to the power used

during the operation of the facility, during weekends the power generated will be sent back into the institution distribution system.

Much of the project planning and procurement has been a cooperative effort between the DOC, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Division of Energy Resources and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC).



The photovoltaic panel being held by Andrew Bakinowksi is only one of hundreds that will be installed at DOC facilities over the next nine months. The panel measures about 3 feet by 5 feet and weighs about 48 pounds.

Baby Blanket Secrets

By Jason Mazza

According to a May 2007 Drug Enforcement Administration news release, "Operation Jacket Racket" was a DEA Special Operations Division-coordinated narcotics investigation targeting a large scale Colombian heroin drug trafficking organization with distribution cells in San Diego, New York City, and Newark, New Jersey. The investigation also targeted multiple Mexico-based heroin transportation cells involved in the importation of large quantities of heroin into the United States, from three sources of supply in Colombia, over an extended period of time.

A typical smuggling method used by all three Colombia sources of supply was to sew heroin into the linings of clothing or to conceal it in the linings of suitcases. Some of the drugs were even hidden in baby blankets.

What does this have to do with the DOC? Hopefully nothing, however, when it comes to the trafficking of drugs, correctional facilities are not immune.

DOC institutions process hundreds of inmate visitors each week. Every time a visitor enters an insti-



tution we need to be respectfully suspicious regarding his or her intent. While many visitors are law-abiding and are simply going about legitimate business, others are attempting to deceive us in order to smuggle drugs or other contraband items into our facilities.

The introduction of such items is not only a violation of State law, but poses a serious threat to staff, visitors and inmates alike. Staff involved with the processing of inmate visitors, or those assigned to pedestrian and vehicle trap posts should be vigilant when

searching items of clothing for contraband.

In a correctional setting the smuggler is typically carrying small quantities of drugs. Large quantities would be too obvious and difficult for the inmate to conceal once received. Small quantities are easier to hide and the smuggler hopes they will be less likely to be detected by the officer conducting the search.

False pockets are sewn into garments, or the sewing is done is such a way as to be easily undone, allowing access to the concealed items. Flattened items of little weight can sometimes go unnoticed during searches as they aren't felt through the officer's gloves because of the type of fabric, liner or filler used in the clothing.

Staff should use their hands and eyes together to search for irregularities in clothing design or manufacture, either of which could be an indication the article has been tampered with. Proper, thorough, consistent searches, and an awareness of your surroundings are an officer's best defense against would be smugglers.

Shaker Village

By Jeffrey Quick

The Shirley Shaker Village, located on the grounds of the Shirley Correctional Complex, is an assemblage of wood-framed and brick structures of a 19th century Shaker Farm Community.

In the late 1990's a stabilization project provided structural stabilization to many of the Shaker buildings. Since the completion of the project, funding has not been available to maintain this stabilization effort.

Recently, through the efforts of Senator Pamela Resor and her office, funding has been acquired from the Massachusetts Office of Travel and Tourism.



John Ott, National Heritage Museum; MCI Shirley Superintendent Duane MacEachern; Meredith Marcinkweicz, Shirley Historical Society; Senator Pamela Resor; Representative James Eldridge; Marge Darby, Freedom's Way Heritage Association.

Working with the Shirley Historical Commission, the Department of Correction will provide the technical assistance and inmate labor needed to once again stabilize and preserve these historical structures.



Responsible, Respectful, Honest, Caring

Acting Commissioner James R. Bender



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Claire Kilawee-Corsini

Debra Leeman

Charles Lyons

Anne Manning

Bill Martin

Susan Martin

Gregory McCann

Brenda Melanson

Charles Neudorfer II

John O'Malley

Paul Ruane

Kyra Silva

Gary Temple

Michael Thomas

Diane Wiffin

2007 Boston Avon Walk for Breast Cancer

By Catherine House

On the weekend of May 19, 2007, my team of six strong willed women, including two Correction Program Officers and one grandfather, com-pleted the Boston Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. We were required to raise at least \$1,800 each in the fight against breast cancer.

Everyone has different reasons for doing this walk. In 2006, I agreed to do my first walk with a friend and fellow CPO because I thought it did I know, a year later I would personally be affected by cancer. My dad did not



would be a challenge. Little did I know, a year later I chinson (SBCC CPO), Brenda Marti, Leslie Wilson, Alan Would personally be affected "Big Daddy" Wilson, Cathy House (NECC CPO)

have breast cancer, but the cancer took him away from me. I truly believe that finding a cure to one cancer will unravel the mysteries of many. My experiences with my Dad's short illness have changed the way I look at life. You can't sit back and wait for life or a cure to happen. The only way to make a difference is to MAKE it happen.

Walkers had the choice of walking 26 or 40 miles. We chose the 40 mile challenge. The event kicked off on a rainy Saturday, with an early morning Opening Ceremony at UMASS in Boston. After completing the first day, walkers spent Saturday night in two-person tents in the Avon Wellness Village at the Prowse Farm in Canton. The village included medical triage, hot showers, prepared meals, and live entertainment. Sunday (again in the rain) walkers completed another 13.1 miles, ending back at the UMASS campus where they were greeted by thousands of friends and family.

My team finished the walk together. It was truly an amazing experience. We crossed the finish line feeling like we made a difference in helping a great cause. Inspiration came from walking with our newest member of our team, 72 year old Alan "Big Daddy" Wilson. On Saturday, although he was tired, sore, cold and wet from the constant downpour, he finished the first 26 miles without a complaint. On Sunday during the final 13 miles of our walk, he was our "pace $man^{\prime\prime}$ -we had to hustle to keep up with him. He showed us all that hard work, a good mindset and determination is what you need to succeed.

This year, two of our team members were randomly given pink ribbons to wear during the weekend. The pink ribbon signifies that every three minutes there is a diagnosis of breast cancer. It showed all of us how random breast cancer can

The generosity and support of family, friends, and co-workers has been overwhelming. Our team alone is hoping to have reached close to \$15,000. Overall, the Boston Avon Walk raised \$6.7 million for breast cancer. It is an amazing feeling of accomplishment knowing that we are all taking an active role in putting an end to breast cancer.

Promotions: May-August

Philip Demoura Janice Perez Brian Flaherty Margaux Reinoso Jeffrey Garvey Catherine Smith Richard Houlihan Gary Temple James Nealon **Judith Warner** Bruce Ogilvie